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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MID-
DLESEX SILVER CO. LIMITED [GB/GB]; Middlesex
University, Queensway Enfield, London, Greater London
EN3 4SA (GB). *

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): JOHNS, Peter Gam-
mon [GB/GB]; 39 Richmond Drive, Watford, Hertford-
shire WD17 3BQ (GB). HARRISON, Clare Elizabeth
[GB/GB]; 23 Salmons Road Edmonton, London, Greater
London N9 7JT (GB).

(74) Agent: LUCAS, Brian, Ronald; Lucas & Co., 135 West-
hall Road, Warringham, Surrey CR6 9HJ (GB).

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* Middlesex University
North London Business Park
Oakleigh Road South
London N11 1QS
GB

(54) Title: WATER-BASED METAL TREATMENT COMPOSITION

(57) Abstract: Disclosed for use in treating a metal, e.g., an alloy of silver as aforesaid, is a water-based composition comprising a treatment agent selected from an alkanethiol, alkyl thioglycollate, dialkyl sulfide or dialkyl disulfide and at least one of an amphoteric, nonionic or cationic surfactant in a concentration that is effective to solubilise the treatment agent. Preferably the composition comprises at least a non-ionic relatively hydrophobic surfactant e.g. cocamide DEA. The composition is particularly suitable for the treatment of Ag-Cu-Ge alloys.

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